

**Remarks**

Claims 1-31 were pending. In light of the restriction requirement in the parent application, claims 1-21 and 29-31 are cancelled without prejudice; Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue subject matter in these claims in another application. Claims 32-44 are added. Therefore, **claims 22-28 and 32-44 are now pending.**

Claims 22, 24 and 25 are amended to clarify the claim language. Claim 22 is further amended to add the phrase "wherein said membranes are separable from each other." This phrase is supported throughout the specification (*e.g.*, page 4, line 20). Support for the new claims can be found throughout the claims and specification, for example:

Claim 32: Page 12, lines 1-3 and lines 12-22.

Claim 33: Page 9, lines 10-12 and page 11, lines 15-19.

Claim 34: Page 8, lines 26-27 and page 10, lines 14-16.

Claims 35-36: Page 9, lines 1-2.

Claims 37-38: Page 9, lines 13-15.

Claim 39: Page 4, line 16 and page 6, lines 17-19.

Claim 40: Original claim 20.

Claim 41: Original claim 29 and page 6, lines 14-19.

Claims 42-43: Page 6, lines 17-19.

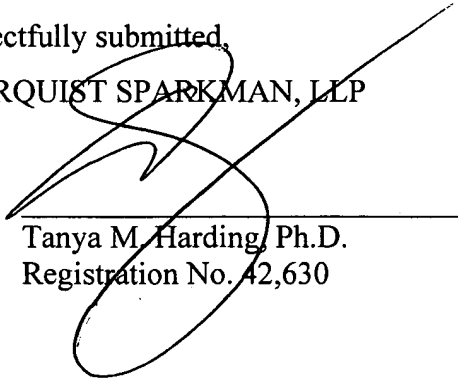
Claim 44: Original claim 1; page 4, line 11; page 7, line 18; in the abstract; page 9, lines 16-21; and at page 10, line 25 through page 11, line 2.

No new matter is added by this amendment. None of the amendments made herein were to distinguish prior art, but were instead due to the restriction in the parent application. If there are any questions regarding this amendment, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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